

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7508

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SADAT, ANWAR)

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF SADAT US VISIT

1. PRESIDENT SADAT'S FIRST DAY OF DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON COMPLETELY DOMINATES CAIRO DAILIES OCTOBER 28 AND HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION. CAIRO TELEVISION OCTOBER 27 CARRIED SATELLITE PICTURES OF WHITE HOUSE ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT LEAST THREE TIMES (WITH RE-BROADCAST OF JULY 1975 INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS IN BETWEEN), WHILE RADIO NEWSCASTS HAVE REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON FORD-SADAT TALKS, SADAT ADDRESS TO NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, AND TOASTS AT WHITE HOUSE STATE DINNER.

2. IN BANNER-HEADLINED ARTICLES ON SADAT-FORD MEETING, HEAVY EMPHASIS PLACED ON AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE PEACE PROCESS IN ME AND ON SPECIFIC SADAT REFERENCES TO NECESSITY FOR SECOND DISENGAGEMENT ON GOLAN AND FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. GUMHURRIYA REPLAYS ABC INTERVIEW WITH SADAT AIRED OCTOBER 26 AND REPORTS THAT SADAT-FORD CONVERSATIONS DEALT IN PART WITH NEW PROPOSALS SADAT TO MAKE TO UN CONCERNING UNCLASSIFIED

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ME SITUATION.

3. MOST ARTICLES CONCERNING DISCUSSIONS LACKING IN SPECIFICS, STATING ONLY THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE DISCUSSED IN ADDITION TO ME SITUATION. ALL DAILIES SPECULATE THAT NEW US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT IN WORKS (HODA TAWFIQ IN GUMHURRIYA PUTS FIGURE AT \$700 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE AND \$300 MILLION IN SURPLUS COMMODITIES), BUT TOPIC OF US ARMS FOR EGYPT TREATED ONLY IN MOST GENERAL TERMS. ALL PAPERS CARRY FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES ON FOUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED DURING SADAT VISIT: HEALTH COOPERATION, TAX ACCORD, SURPLUS COMMODITIES DONATION, AND TUT-ANKH-AMON EXHIBITION.

4. MUSA SABRI IN AKHBAR QUOTES INFORMED WHITE HOUSE SOURCES CONCERNING ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FORD AND SADAT SCHEDULED FOR JACKSONVILLE. ACCORDING TO SABRI, THESE DISCUSSIONS NOT IN ORIGINAL SADAT SCHEDULE, BUT ARRANGED DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS. AKHBAR POINTS OUT THAT FORD TRAVEL TO FLORIDA TO SEE SADAT IS UNIQUE HONOR FOR VISITING CHIEF OF STATE.

5. EDITORIALS GENERALLY DEAL WITH DEEP CONCERN WHICH SADAT VISIT CAUSING IN ISRAEL. WRITERS ARGUE THAT ISRAEL HAS LONG BEEN WORKING TO ISOLATE AMERICA FROM ARABS AND SADAT VISIT NOW BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AND THREATENING UNIQUE US-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP.

6. UNDERLINING UP-BEAT TONES OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF SADAT US TOUR, BOTH AHAM AND AKHBAR CITE WIRE SERVICES AND ISRAELI DAVAAR FROM WASHINGTON THAT SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD HAS INDICATED UNOFFICIALLY TO AMERICANS THAT SYRIA WOULD BE WILLING, ON TEMPORARY BASIS, TO PERMIT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN A DEMILITARIZED GOLA, UNDER PROTECTION OF UN FORCES. ALTHOUGH AHAM NOTES THAT ISRAEL REFUSED THIS UNOFFICIAL PROPOSAL, IMPRESSION LINGERS THAT DISCUSSIONS UNDER WAY.

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